

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) ~~Ball-point~~ A ball-point pen (1,11) comprising:

a tip (4);

a capillary channel (3) within the tip;

a hole (10) within the tip and connected to the capillary channel;

a reservoir (2) communicating with [[a]] the hole (10) connected to [[a]] the capillary channel (3) of [[a]] the tip (4);

a ball (5) for writing, the ball located with the tip;

~~which is provided with~~

a cavity (9) which seats the ball (5) for writing, the cavity having a retaining edge (9t);

a compression-resilient spring (6) extending through the hole and terminating in a straight portion (6r), which straight portion is aligned with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1), the straight portion having a free end (6p) in contact with the ball (5),

~~this~~ the ball (5) being kept pressed against [[a]] the retaining edge (9t) of the abovementioned cavity (9) as a result

of the thrust of a compression-resilient spring (6); ~~terminating in a straight portion (6r) which is aligned with the longitudinal axis (N N) of the ball point pen (1) and the free end (6p) of which is in contact with the said ball (5),~~

~~wherein said capillary channel (3) has, inside it,~~
means

a narrow section of a locally radially decreased cross-section (7, 7') within the capillary channel ~~which,~~ coming into contact with the ~~said~~ straight portion (6r) of the spring (6), ~~prevent it~~ the narrow section (7, 7') preventing the straight portion of the spring from becoming inclined with respect to the ~~said~~ longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1),

~~wherein the said capillary channel (3) has a~~
the narrow section (7, 7') which, being passed through in the axial direction by the ~~said~~ straight portion (6r) of the spring (6), is ~~designed with dimensions~~ dimensioned such as to contain said straight portion in an approximately complementary manner with a minimum amount of play, substantially preventing [[it]] said straight portion from assuming inclined positions with respect to the ~~abovementioned~~ longitudinal axis (N-N), ~~and~~

wherein said straight portion (6r) consists of only a single straight portion extending from a distalmost end in contact with the ball (5) towards a coiled portion (6) of the spring, the entire single straight portion being located on the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1); and

a radial through-groove (8i) connecting the cavity seating the ball to hole, the radial through-groove being outside the narrow section (7,7') containing the straight portion.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, in which the ~~said~~ narrow section is formed by a cylindrical shaped restriction (7).

5. (currently amended, Withdrawn) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, in which the ~~said~~ narrow section is defined by a ring (12) with a semi-circular cross section projecting towards the inside of the capillary channel (3) having its axis coinciding with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1).

6. (currently amended) Ball-point pen according to claim 3, in which the ~~said~~ narrow section is formed by a cylindrical shaped restriction (7).

7. (currently amended, Withdrawn) Ball-point pen according to claim 3, in which the ~~said~~ narrow section is defined by a ring (12) with a semi-circular cross section projecting towards the inside of the capillary channel (3) having its axis coinciding with the longitudinal axis (N-N) of the ball-point pen (1).

8. (currently amended) Ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein a cross section through the ~~said~~ narrow section (7,7') on a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis (N-N) defines a circular opening surrounding said straight portion (6r).